Sanction of pay Phones

881. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some criteria has been fixed for sanction of pay phones;

(b) if so, details thereof with formalities required and charges issued for such installation including registration;

(c) whether any remuneration has been fixed for subscribers of such pay phones or service charges for handling this service;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not reasons therefor;

(e) whether under such schemes telephone connections have been provided in U.P. and Delhi;

(f) if so, give their locations separately state-wise with timing fixed; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing policy, Public Telephones are allotted to those who volunteer to run the same subject to technical feasibility and completion of departmental formalities. Preference is given to Handicapped persons, Ex-servicemen|Retired staff of Department of Telecom. Women (educated and unemployed), SC|ST and other weaker sections of society. The allottee has to procure Public Telephone Enquipment on his own. No rental or installation fee is charged but the hirer has to guarantee a minimum monthly revenue of Rs. 1600|- and deposit a minimum security of Rs. 9600|- for STD|ISD pay phones. There is a monthly guaranteed minimum charge for 500 call units for Local PCOs.

(c) and (d) The Payphone hirer is eligible for a commission of 20 paise per call for first 10,000 calls and 10 paise per call beyond 10,000 calls. For a local, PCO, the Commission payable is 40 paise per call. The allottees of public telephones are not permitted to levy any service charges from the public.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Public Telephones are generally provided at common place like :

— Commercial Housing Societies.

— Resettlement Colonies.

— Government Colonies.

— Family Quarters of Defence Personnel.

— Student Hostels.

— Bus Stands.

— Tourist Centres.

— Air Posts.

— Pilgrim Centres.

— Railway Stations.

— Hospitals.

— Education Institutions.

— Libraries etc.

The allottees of Pay Phones are required to keep the Public telephones open for a prescribed minimum number of hours as mutually agreed upon betwen the allottee and the Department of Telecommunications.

(g) Does not arise, in view of reply to parts (e) and (f) abcve.